
Effective: August 1, 1997

96.00 Utility Accommodation
96.04 General Information**Supersedes:** March 1, 1992

By: Director, Bureau of Highway Operations

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A. Federal Highway Administration Review

The Department's Utility Accommodation Policy has been approved by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). Consequently, the Department is not required to send FHWA utility permit applications or preliminary occupation requests for their approval. However, the Department shall submit to FHWA all applications or requests on the National Highway System that propose the following:

1. Installations not in accordance with the Policy.
2. Longitudinal installations of private utility facilities.

B. Buried Line Locating Notification

Each applicant for a permit to work on a state trunk highway shall provide a reliable line-locate notification service by either or both of the following means:

1. If the applicant has membership in a one-call utility notification service, they shall enter the current telephone number(s) for the service on the face of each state permit application. The applicant shall also provide written notification to the appropriate Department district office(s) upon or in advance of any subsequent changes in the one-call contact information such as cessation of membership, changes in the contact telephone number(s), etc.; and/or
2. If the applicant lacks membership in a one-call utility notification service at the time of application for a state permit, or has membership but desires to provide a second resource for line locates, they shall:
 - a. Provide operational area maps which accurately specify the area(s) in which the applicant has lines or a franchise to install lines. A minimum of one such map should be furnished to the appropriate Department district office(s) having jurisdiction over area(s) into which the lines of the applicant extend. The applicant shall advise these offices of any future changes in their operational area(s), and supply updated maps showing the current conditions, and
 - b. Enter on the face of each permit application the current telephone number(s) to be called to obtain specific line locates from the applicant. The applicant should notify the appropriate Department district office of any change to these telephone numbers.

C. Design Responsibility

The utility shall be responsible for the design of the facility to be installed or adjusted within the right-of-way. The Department shall be responsible for review of the utility's proposal and for permit approval.

D. Utility Facility Condition Requirements

All utility facilities shall be kept in a good state of repair both structurally and from the standpoint of appearance.

E. Chemical Treatment and Cutting of Trees

Utilities shall be prohibited from chemical treatment or cutting of trees on state highways without a permit from the Department except as provided under maintenance type activities (see policies 96.61 through 96.64).

F. Draining Wetlands

The installation of privately owned lines or conduits on the right-of-way for the purpose of draining wetlands is prohibited.